

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03796 171054Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /098 W
-----171809Z 111427 /44

R 171006Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3541
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3796

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SY, ET
SUBJECT: SYRIAN/ERITREAN RELATIONS

1. EMBOFF RECENTLY MET WITH SYRIAN LAWYER WHO, ALONG WITH ITALIAN EMBOFF, HAS BEEN PRIMARY SOURCE ON SYRO-ERITREAN RELATIONS. LAWYER BEGAN BY NOTING THAT RAMADAN ABD AL-NUR HAD VISITED DAMASCUS FIRST WEEK IN JUNE AND THAT SARG WAS INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE UNIFICATION OF ERITREAN LIBERATION FACTIONS. PRES. AL-ASSAD HIMSELF HAD RAISED ISSUE WITH SOVIETS DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KREMLIN LEADERS IN MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, AL-ASSAD TOLD BREZHNEV THAT SOVIETS SHOULD ADOPT "PRINCIPLED POSITION" AND SUPPORT ERITREAN CAUSE, RATHER THAN GOE. SOURCE SAID SOVIETS LISTENED TO AL-ASSAD'S PRESENTATION ON THIS SUBJECT BUT DID NOT RESPOND.

2. SOURCE THEN SAID THAT ETHIOPIANS WERE MASSING THEIR FORCES ALONG "ERITREAN BORDER" FOR ATTACK THAT WOULD BEGIN SOON. HE ALSO NOTED RECENT ERITREAN SUCCESSES IN DESTROYING BRIDGES BETWEEN ADDIS ABABA AND DJIBOUTI.
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3. SOURCE VOLUNTERRED THAT IF US WISHED IMPROVE ITS POSITION AND IMAGE WITH ERITREANLEADERS IT SHOULD ACT TO: A) PROMOTE DISCUSSION OF ERITREAN ISSUE BY OAU, B) SUPPORT INTRODCTION OF ERITREAN ISSUE ON UNGA AGENDA, C) PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ERITREANS, INCLUDING FOOD AND CLOTHING, AND D) PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENABLE

ERITERAN STUDENTS TO STUDY IN THE US SO THAT A QULAIFIED,
SOLID PROFESSIONAL CLASS WOULD EXIST OR BE IN FORMATION
"WHEN ERITREA BECOMES INDEPENDENT."
PELLETREAU

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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